

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03208 281810Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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P R 281704Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5566
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS GEL
COMUSFORAZ

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: MAY DAY PREVIEW

REF: LISBON 3051 (DTG 241032Z APR 78)

SUMMARY: THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE CGTP-
INTERSINDICAL PLAN TO MAKE MAY THEIR DAY.
DEMOCRATIC LABOR ORGANIZATIONS PLAN ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES
BUT ARE LIKELY TO BE LOST IN THE DUST. THE COMMUNISTS WILL
PROBABLY NOT SEEK CONFRONTATIONS, BUT A RECENTLY MORE
AGRESSIVE RIGHT COULD PROVOKE SOME INCIDENTS. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 LISBON 03208 281810Z

1. A DAY OF UNITY AND STRUGGLE: THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST
PARTY AND INTERSINDICAL WILL CELEBRATE MAY 1 WITH MARCHES
AND A MAJOR LISBON RALLY. PARTY/UNION SPEAKERS WILL
EMPHASIZE OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY
PROGRAM, THE PERCEIVED THREAT FROM THE RIGHT, AND THE
NEED TO DEFEND THE WORKERS'S HARD-EARNED REVOLUTIONARY

VICTORIES. PSP-SPONSORED MEETINGS, RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND SPORTING EVENTS ARE SCHEDULED IN 55 LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, BUT THE MAJOR EVENTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE LISBON/SETUBAL AREA.

2. LISBON AREA PROGRAM: WARM-UP ACTIVITIES IN THE LISBON AREA WILL BEGIN WITH RECREATIONAL EVENTS FOR THE PUBLIC APRIL 29. MAY 1 ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT DAWN WITH PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT FESTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE AREA, FOLLOWED BY A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION AND MARCH IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON, AND CULMINATING WITH A MASS RALLY IN THE LISBON STADIUM. THE CGTP-MAY 1 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE LISBON/SETUBAL AREA CLAIMS THAT MORE THAN 150 WORKER ASSOCIATIONS, SOME 70 LABOR ASSOCIATIONS, AND VARIOUS YOUTH AND WOMEN'S GROUPS WILL PARTICIPATE.

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES: THE PCTP/MRPP, PCP (M-1) AND UDP HAVE ALL CRITICIZED--RATHER FORLORNLY--PCP EFFORTS TO DOMINATE THE MAY 1 CELEBRATIONS, AND HAVE CALLED FOR, OR SCHEDULED, ALTERNATIVE EVENTS. THE PSD'S OLIVEIRA MARTINS FOUNDATION, THE DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS, AND THE PS-DOMINATED CARTA ABERTA MOVEMENT HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CGTP-INTERSINDICAL EVENTS. THE PS RESERVED A PARK OUTSIDE LISBON AND HAS SCHEDULED A DAY OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEMOCRATIC WORKERS.
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PAGE 03 LISBON 03208 281810Z

4. COMMENT: PCP/INTERSINDICAL ACTIVITIES DOMINATE THE MAY 1 CELEBRATIONS AND THE PARTY'S ORGANIZATIONAL MACHINE WILL TURN OUT THE CROWDS. DEMOCRATIC GROUPS AND ASSORTED LEFTISTS WILL RUN A POOR SECOND. UNLIKE THE APRIL 25 OBSERVANCES, THE COMMUNISTS WILL BE OUT IN FORCE. WHILE NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, THEY WILL RESPOND IF PROVOKED BY THE RIGHT.
BLOOMFIELD

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